

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 were examined in the Office Action mailed July 5, 2007. These claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,553,296 to Breed *et al.* ("Breed").

The Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 5 and dependent claims 3 and 7 to recite features of the present invention discussed in Specification paragraphs [0020] and [0019], respectively. Claims 1 and 5 now recite that a separate sound source may be supplied to each occupant, *i.e.*, "independent active sites with separate sound from independent sound sources are made available to different occupants at the same time." Claims 3 and 7 now recite that "sounds from the exterior of the vehicle can be piped in from the exterior through the acoustic system of the vehicle," a feature that permits the possibility of designing the noise suppression system exclusively for suppressing the inherent noise in the vehicle.

The Applicants respectfully submit that the Breed reference does not contain any disclosure or suggestion of these features of the present invention, and therefore the pending claims, as amended, are patentable over Breed.

CONCLUSION

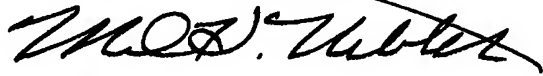
The Applicants submit that claims 1-8 are in condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance for these claims is respectfully requested.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #080437.53140US).

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Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey D. Sanok
Registration No. 32,169
Mark H. Neblett
Registration No. 42,028

CROWELL & MORING LLP
Intellectual Property Group
P.O. Box 14300
Washington, DC 20044-4300
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844
JDS:MHN:tas
#3971966